Past Simple Tense

Comprehensive Grammar Reference & Student Worksheet — Secondary Level

Student Name: _____ **Class:** _____ **Date:** _____

1. Overview & Usage

The **Past Simple Tense** is used to express completed actions that occurred at a specific time in the past.

- **Finished Actions:** *"We **visited** Rome last summer."*
- **Sequential Events:** *"He **woke up**, **had** breakfast, and **left**."*
- **Past Habits:** *"When I was young, I **played** tennis every day."*

> **Key Time Expressions:** *yesterday, last night/week/year, two days ago, in 2018, when I was a child.*

2. Sentence Structures

Type	Structure	Example
Affirmative (+)	Subject + Verb (Past Form)	She **watched** a film yesterday. / They **went** home.
Negative (-)	Subject + **didn't** + Base Verb	She **didn't watch** a film. / They **didn't go** home.
Question (?)	**Did** + Subject + Base Verb?	**Did** she **watch** a film? / **Did** they **go** home?

The Verb *To Be* (Was / Were)

The verb *be* does not use *did* in negatives or questions.

Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Question
I / He / She / It	was	wasn't (was not)	Was he...?
You / We / They	were	weren't (were not)	Were they...?

3. Practice Exercises

Exercise A: Regular Verbs

Complete the sentences using the Past Simple form of the regular verb in brackets.

1. Last summer, our family _____ (visit) our grandparents in the countryside.

2. Sarah _____ (study) very hard for her final exam yesterday evening.

3. The train _____ (stop) at the station just a few minutes ago.

4. The students _____ (play) basketball after their lessons finished.

5. We _____ (live) in Cairo when I was primary school student.

Exercise B: Irregular Verbs Cheat Sheet

Complete the table with the correct Past Simple forms.

Base Form	Past Simple Form	Base Form	Past Simple Form
1. Go	_____	4. Write	_____
2. See	_____	5. Eat	_____
3. Buy	_____	6. Make	_____

Exercise C: Negatives & Questions

A. Change the following statements into Negative sentences:

1. They bought a new car last month.
→ _____

2. He went to the library after class.
→ _____

B. Change the following statements into Questions:

3. She finished her English project last night.
→ _____?

4. They visited the history museum on Saturday.
→ _____?

Exercise D: Verb *To Be* (Was / Were)

Fill in the blanks with **was**, **were**, **wasn't**, or **weren't**.

1. The math exam _____ easy at all; in fact, it was very difficult.

2. Where _____ you yesterday evening? I called you twice.

3. They _____ at school yesterday because they were ill.

4. William Shakespeare _____ a famous English playwright.

Teacher's Answer Key

Exercise A: 1. visited | 2. studied | 3. stopped | 4. played | 5. lived

Exercise B: 1. went | 2. saw | 3. bought | 4. wrote | 5. ate | 6. made

Exercise C:
1. They didn't buy a new car last month.
2. He didn't go to the library after class.
3. Did she finish her English project last night?
4. Did they visit the history museum on Saturday?

Exercise D: 1. wasn't | 2. were | 3. weren't | 4. was